

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are now pending. Applicant has added new claims 27-42. Applicant has also made a preliminary amendment to claim 20 which Applicant contends is not to be considered a narrowing amendment.

Applicant contends that claims 1-42 are allowable over the prior art of record and respectfully requests consideration and allowance of these claims.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the prior art of record. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4-1-04

By: Richard A. Giangiorgi

Richard A. Giangiorgi, Reg. No. 24,284

James R. Foley, Reg. No. 39,793

James A. O'Malley, Reg. No. 45,952

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI,
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.

105 W. Adams Street, 36th Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60603

(312) 704-1890

641546

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Inventor: Clinch et al.

Title: Split Weld Cage Nut Assembly

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